

REMARKS

Claims 5-6, 8, 24-26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Rhoden et al. in view of Egan. The Examiner indicated that Applicant could not rely upon the foreign priority claimed because a translation of the foreign priority papers had not been made of record. Accordingly, a certified English language translation of the foreign priority document, Japanese Application No. 8-020332, filed on February 6, 1996, is submitted herewith.


The filing date of Egan is September 17, 1998. The present application claims priority from Serial No. 08/930,648, which is the U.S. national phase of PCT/JP97/00297, filed February 6, 1997, which claims priority from Japanese patent application 8-020332, filed February 6, 1996. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Egan is not prior art to the present application, and that the rejection of Claims 5-6, 8, 24-26 and 28 on the grounds of obviousness from Rhoden et al. in view of Egan should be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Rhoden et al. in view of Egan, and further in view of May. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that Egan is not prior art to the present application, and that the rejection of Claims 7 and 27 on the grounds of obviousness from Rhoden et al. in view of Egan, and further in view of May should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Certified translation of Japanese Application No. 8-020332

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